

## Board of Parks and Parkways

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The signature element of Miami Springs is our trees. The Board of Parks and Parkways works diligently with the City to safeguard our canopy. The protection of our trees is good for everyone.

Besides being a long-established and very knowledgeable volunteer advisory body to the Council on all plantings on public land, this important Board works closely with the City Arborist and the City Attorney to draft tree ordinances for recommendation and adoption that protect all native trees on private as well as public land. These ordinances, which are in many instances more stringent than County codes, are a significant part of a commitment to urban forestry that has resulted in Miami Springs being certified as a Tree City USA since 1993. The City has also earned the Tree City Growth Award, was designated #1 Tree City USA for Florida in 2004, was one of four finalists in 2005, and has also won one Sterling Award.

Besides being a source of great pride to residents, trees are an investment in the health, economy and social fabric of our city. They clean the air, reduce storm water runoff, reduce soil erosion, attract wildlife, provide shade for citizens, and help elevate property values.

One of the most prevalent and greatest risks to our trees is the trimming procedure known as "hat racking", whereby ¼ or more of the limbs are lopped off, very often leaving the tree non-viable. Not only is this detrimental to the tree, it is against the code, and homeowners are held liable for all infractions performed on their property. Property owners can avoid a visit by Code Compliance Officers by dealing with a Certified Arborist or licensed tree trimmers, and obtaining necessary permits from the Building and Code Compliance Department.

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